

► **FREE**

Alan Berkman

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B U L L E T I N

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EVENTS LISTINGS
FOR ACTIVISTS

Political Prisoner Survives "Medical Treatment"

Alan Berkman In Serious But Stable Condition

On October 13, the white blood cell count of Alan Berkman, anti-imperialist political prisoner imprisoned in the Washington DC jail and suffering from Hodgekins cancer, went down dangerously low. Alan was transferred out of prison into the hospital next door for an operation to remedy this situation. Instead of injecting the medicine into Alan's veins, as the doctors should have done, they operated on Alan to inject the medicine directly into his chest.

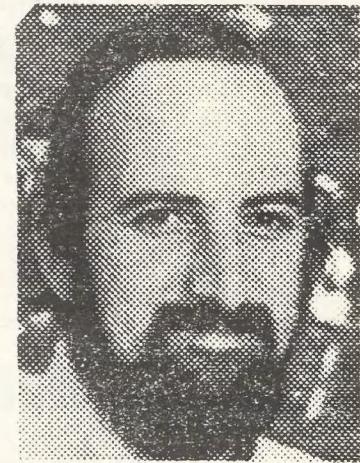
Afterwards, he was immediately transferred back to prison, put into solitary where the incision went septic. Alan, being a doctor, recognized what was happening. He called for help for over 24 hrs. When guards finally took notice of his cries, Alan was transferred back to the hospital, close to death and shackled to his bed.

Today Alan is in serious but stable condition, still shackled to his bed. The 24hr delay in getting Alan to hos-

pital has lead many to believe that prison authorities are trying to kill him. What happened on October 13 was not an isolated incident.

When Berkman felt that he was having a recurrence of cancer in 1989, a cat-scan was delayed for 6

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Alan Berkman

Queers Do It Again

On Halloween night, pedestrians on Yonge St. witnessed 50 loud and unashamed fags and dykes marching through the street, blocking half of it. The demonstration was organized by Pink Patrol (a Queer community street patrol) and Queer Nation to protest the string of gay-bashings since the summer.

The demonstration, for which no permit was obtained, began at Church St and Wellesley St where Queers took to the street, marching to Yonge St. When we arrived at the

intersection of Yonge and Wellesley, a group of straight boys blocked our way, responding to our shouts of "We're Queer, we're here, and we're not going away" with "Go back, go back." One homophobe began popping the yellow and black coloured QN balloons with his cigarette as we went through those blocking our way up Yonge St. Pedestrians lined the sidewalks, bewildered by what they were witnessing—Queers refusing to be kept in their place.

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ACT UP/NY Office Set Ablaze

On Friday night, September 21, one (or many) arsonist(s) set fire to the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power/New York's office, days before it was scheduled to open. The fire marked the third time in two weeks that ACT UP's office was broken into. Most of the damage (destroyed archives and photocopier) was caused by the sprinkler system activated by the fire.

When the fire marshall went to the ACT UP office, he told ACT UP members that the cause of the fire was arson. Yet the local press reported the incident as "a small rubbish fire" and implied that an ACT UP member had started the blaze. According to ACT UP, the fire marshall has already given up pursuing the incident.

At a time when gaybashing is increasing across North America, the attacks against ACT UP come as no surprise. However, the fire and break-ins have not discouraged ACT UP/NY. They promise to keep up and intensify their fight for affordable and adequate AIDS treatment and education.

Source: Gay Community News

Halloween Parade

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The Queers went up Yonge St and proceeded to a park, where many gaybashings have occurred, for a celebration and some fireworks. During the march, Queers were verbally assaulted, and some pelted by apples

and other objects thrown by hostile pedestrians. The reason why we were taking to the streets was illustrated by an event which occurred during the march. A drag queen waiting in line at a gay club was bashed by some straights, who were then chased away by other Queers, but the damage was already done.

Since the summer, there has been over 75 reported gaybashings in Toronto with no response from city officials. It's clear that only we Queers can defend our community. We cannot expect the biggest force of best organized homophobes, the police, to defend us from other homophobes. The demonstration on Halloween was only one of many steps being taken to making our streets safer. Queer Nation and Pink Patrol are here, unashamedly Queer, and here to stay. Get used to it!

Alan Berkman Still Battling Cancer

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months. When it was finally performed in March 1990, it revealed that Hodgkin's cancer was recurring. Despite this, Alan was told that there was no cancer. A campaign by other prisoners and supporters forced prison officials to allow Alan to undergo a biopsy which proved that the cancer was back.

A campaign was once again mounted to put pressure on the Bureau of Prisons to give Alan proper medical care. Unfortunately, he has only received sub-standard medical care. On one occasion, a needle with medication was injected into the wrong part of Alan's chest. Had Alan not been a doctor, he would not have recognized what was happening and put a stop to it. He could have died as a result of that mistake.

Along with Tim Blunk, Marylin Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg, and Laura Whitehorn, Alan was one of the Resistance Conspiracy Case defendants. The case ended when Marylin, Linda and Laura each pleaded guilty to one count of "conspiring to change or influence the policies of the US government through violent and illegal means" and "aiding and abetting" the Capitol bombing following the US invasion of Grenada in 1983. The three women pleaded guilty in order that all outstanding charges be dropped against Alan, Tim and Susan.

Alan has a long history of anti-racist activism. As a physician, he served in oppressed communities in various US cities and visited political prisoners to expose human rights

abuses. He provided support and medical care during the US occupation of the Native territory of Wounded Knee in 1973.

As it stands, Alan is eligible for parole. He will "max out" in two years. Alan and his supporters are demanding that he be paroled immediately. This would allow him to receive the proper medical care he needs. Letters demanding that Alan be paroled can be sent to: U.S. Parole Commission, Air World Centre, suite 220-10920 Ambassador Dr., Kansas City MO 64153, USA, Attn: Irma Huseman, case analyst.

Letters of support and get well wishes can be sent to:

Alan Berkman 233-315, DC Jail, 1901 D St., S.E., Washington DC, 20003.

The Colonization of Quebec: A Brief History

To fully understand the events of October 1970 and the motives of the Front de Liberation du Quebec, we must go back to 1759 when what is now Quebec was lost by French Canada to the British.

During that time period, most of central and eastern North America was a colony of France and England. Apart from the ruling elite, the French colony was made up of farmers, peasants, workers and ex-prisoners sent to the colony by the ruling class of France to reap profits for the metropoles of France. France ensured that no independant economy could develop in Quebec by forcing raw materials, such as furs and wood, to be sent directly to France and by forbiding the production of finished products.

The colonization of the French working class by the English, and the beginning of centuries of humiliation began when Quebec fell to the English, ordered to annex the French colonies by Britain. The fall was followed by military occupation and the imposition of martial law for 3 years, setting a precedent for October 1970 as British law was imposed on the Quebecois. The Quebec clergy became the bourgeoisie, collaborating with and sanctioned by the English.

Prior to this it was the French that had either colonized or driven Native peoples westward. However, it was the earlier explorers who were of the noble class who had implemented these policies of ethnocide. As stated above, the majority of the Quebecois were of the lower classes of France, who were forced to go to the colony to survive. When the English conquered Quebec, the French bourgeoisie was allowed to either return to France or to keep their

position of ruling class, controlled by the English. The English did not blatantly show their conquest by putting English speaking rulers in power, for they knew that a French speaking ruling class would pacify the now conquered Quebecois.

It was now the ruling class of England which prevented the Quebecois from developing its own economy. Throughout Quebec's history, outside interests have prevented a Quebecois made and controlled economy from developing. It is this which lies at the root of the colonization of Quebec.

The Quebecois were used as cheap labour first by France, then England, and would eventually be used by the U.S.

Unsuccessful attempts were made to assimilate the Quebecois. Britain enacted the Quebec Act of 1774 not to "protect French civil rights" as it claimed, but to prevent the Quebecois from following the example of the British colonies in America who revolted in the American Revolution of 1775, gaining independence from Britain.

Revolutionary seperatism was not aroused in Quebec until the 1830's when a rebellion by Les Patriotes was brutally crushed, quelling dreams of independence. It is from Les Patriotes that the FLQ would take their symbol of the French worker smoking a pipe and carrying a rifle.

At the beginning of the 1900's Quebec became a pool of unemployment and poverty as a result of the Industrial Revolution. This climate fostered a spirit of resistance among the Quebecois. Because of

space, we can only give a couple examples of this. In 1916, conscription was announced in all of Canada. In Quebec, mass anti-conscription demos and violent riots erupted. "Vive La Revolution" was a popular slogan. In March 1918 thousands of Quebecois burned down the headquarters of the RCMP. An army battalion was brought up from Toronto and used bullets against demonstrators. Demonstrators shot back wounding 5 soldiers. Four Quebecois were killed while hundreds were wounded and 66 arrested. The disturbances ceased with the end of the war.

In 1942, 85% of Quebecois voted against oversea conscription. Despite this, conscription was instituted. Riots and streetfighting occurred once more. In November of 1944, thousands of Quebecois marched through the Montreal financial district smashing windows of Anglo-American businesses. Once again, the disturbances ended with the end of WW2.

With the emergence of the US as an imperial power, US corporations chose to turn to Quebec for its supply of natural resources and cheap labour. By the 60's Americans controlled 80% of Quebec's economy, while a majority of the Quebecois lived in poverty. This is why the FLQ was born with an anti-imperialist perspective, for they felt the results of American colonialism in their daily lives.

Following the October crisis of 1970, the election of the Parti Quebecois in 1976 began to change the structure of the Quebec economy and who controlled it.

Next issue, an anarchist analysis of Quebec since the PQ's rise to power up until the Meech Lake Accord.

BUILDING BRIGADE

Albany NY carpenter Ruel Bernard has organized a construction brigade, Building Community, in the wake of a hurricane which destroyed 90% of the wooden houses on Vieques, a small Puerto Rican island. The people, who since the 1940s have been resisting U.S. expropriation of the larger part of their island for a naval base, are too poor to rebuild on their own, and the government won't help them as it is trying to force them from the land. The Americans use the natives' livestock for target practise, and have murdered at least one of the people arrested for protesting.

The natives have rallied to block evictions; one was stopped when the family beehives were brought into the house, preventing U.S. marshalls from removing the furniture. However, they have been demoralized by the hurricane. Several teenagers from an Albany alternative school took part in the first brigade, and volunteers with knowledge of carpentry are sought for the next one (January to mid-March.) Information: Building Community, 4 Elm St. Albany NY 12202 (from: Love and Rage, October.)

YOUTH GREENS ECO-FEMINIST

The Third Continental Youth Greens Conference, held this July in Vermont, has passed a resolution linking the domination of wimmin and the destruction of the natural world. The link was attributed to society placing wimmin in the realm of nature and men in the realm of culture; eco-feminists have shown that wimmin are both biological and cultural beings who can draw on the liberatory aspects of their historical inheritance by recognizing their indispensable rational and nurturing capacities. The conference functioned in a cooperative environment, in which responsibility for cooking and cleaning

A REGULAR FEATURE ON ANARCHY IN ACTION

Mutual Aid



was shared. (Love and Rage, October.)

CAMPERS LEARN AUTONOMY

A cooperative environment also prevailed at this year's Ekotopia-camp in Hungary. Like North America's Rainbow gatherings, these gatherings give participants the experience of controlling their own environment and meeting their own needs while discussing topics related to the environment and social change. To this end a baking group built its own oven and took care of the bread supply, a kitchen group prepared the meals and did the cooking with home-made equipment, a building group made toilets and waterworks, a technical group arranged electricity and made the waterpumps work, and other groups produced radio programs and a daily newspaper.

Workshops covered many environmental and cultural topics, and twice-daily circles discussed controversial issues (such as nudism, which offended some participants.) To ensure an honest division of costs between western and eastern Europeans, Ekotopia had its own money system; each arrival ex-

changed national currency for beads.

There were problems with the authorities, and some participants shirked their share of work in running the camp, or abused the currency system by using beads they had bought cheaply in Budapest. The choice of English as the camp language placed the eastern Europeans, few of whom have had the opportunity to learn it, at a disadvantage. The author of the report in Alive from which this information is taken feels that the eastern Europeans were at a further disadvantage in not having had the same exposure to autonomous meeting practices (ie work sharing, consensus) as their western counterparts. Ekotopia is still far from utopia, but participants are learning. Next year's camp will occur in Estonia.

Wobbly Singer coming to Toronto

Utah Phillips, folksinger, and special guest Rick Fielding, will perform at St. Paul's Centre at Trinity, 427 Bloor W., Tuesday Nov. 13 at 8 p.m. Co-sponsored by Mariposa and IWW. Tickets \$12 in advance, \$13 at door, \$10 for IWW, Mariposa or striking union members. Information 941-9945.

Ecomedia Toronto

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Ecomedia Toronto is a local office involved in three main projects: a radio show every Wednesday on CKLN 88.1 FM between 7 and 8 pm on the "Word of Mouth" program; also another radio spot at 12:15pm Fridays on CIUT 89.5 FM; and the bulletin in your hands. Published bi-weekly and free at locations around the city; subscriptions are \$15/yr (26 issues) mailed monthly to cut costs. Order from the address on the front with cheques or M.O.'s payable to Ecomedia.